

Programme change proposals

At York each degree programme has its own, tailored set of distinctive learning outcomes. These won't change, no matter what your location or mode of delivery, and our academics are working hard to ensure your programmes and modules next year continue to inspire and motivate you.

Your health and safety is our number one priority and in light of the Covid-19 pandemic we have needed to make changes to some of your programmes of study for the coming academic year. This document summarises the changes that are proposed.

Programme(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• BSc Chemistry 2019-20• BSc Chem in Biological and Medicinal Chemistry 2019-20• BSc Chem in Green Principles and Sustainable Processes 2019-20• BSc Chem in the Atmosphere and the Environment 2019-20• MChem Chemistry 2019-20• MChem in Biological and Medicinal Chemistry 2019-20• MChem in Green Principles and Sustainable Processes 2019-20• MChem in the Atmosphere and the Environment 2019-20 <p>(MChem inc. Yr Abr/Yr Ind variants)</p>
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Summary of Overall Plans

We hope that the Year 1 experience shared by all our Chemistry programmes will retain the distinctive features that drew you to York. We are working hard to prioritise as much **face-to-face delivery as is possible** in areas such as our **teaching college-based supervision and tutorial system**, and hands-on training in our **state-of-the-art Teaching Laboratories**.

For students on campus, we will make use of our larger rooms to provide a safe environment for face-to-face small-group tutorial sessions, and there will be four of these spread across the first term (and a further nine sessions in Spring/Summer). For students unable to join us on campus (and for everyone for the six larger Year 1 college workshops across the year) we will use live online sessions where your tutor will provide equivalent support through a digital platform, such as Zoom.

We will run practical chemistry sessions through a combination of online instruction and socially-distanced hands-on Teaching Laboratory sessions. Reduced capacity means that you will

be in labs less often but our plan is to provide at least 50% of the normal weekly face-to-face day-long sessions, with constructive use made of your time in non-lab weeks by using tailored digital resources and sample data to work with. For students unable to join us on campus, we have scheduled a number of catch-up windows, depending on when you can join us, whereby you will have some accelerated opportunities to carry out the hands-on components.

We are prioritising opportunities to use our larger rooms so that our new Year 1 teaching college groups can meet each other early on and get to meet their tutors and other key departmental staff in a safe face-to-face environment. This is where you get to know the other Year 1 students with whom you will share tutorial and workshop activities, and the tutors who will lead them. We hope to gather twice in these groups in the early weeks of Autumn Term so that we can build a constructive working relationship. Those not on campus initially will be able to meet tutors through online resources and develop relationships with other Year 1 similarly, including students on campus in addition to others not yet in attendance.

All lectures will be online for the foreseeable future, and video and other supporting resources will be shared with you through our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) for each lecture course within each module. Some other activities fall somewhere between college workshops and lectures, such as Maths and other Skills sessions that run in half-cohort-sized groups and sometimes in specific locations such as computer classrooms (such as Summer Term's Molecular Graphics Protein Database workshop). We are exploring access to suitable rooms to run these as face-to-face sessions but the significantly reduced capacities mean that these are likely to be replaced by self-directed materials that all students can work through online at their own pace. Tutors will be available online to help support these activities and your **personal supervisor will always be available** through this medium and would welcome the opportunity to deal with any queries you may have.

Programme Structures

Our starting point has been to assume that we will deliver Year 1 as originally timetabled for 2020-21. In fact, you will be able to access an online timetable that shows approximately when the lectures, skills sessions (e.g. Maths) and lab sessions would have run under normal circumstances. Some activities will be modified - some more significantly than others - but we do not anticipate the wholesale removal of any significant components of published course content (including related assessments).

As lectures are all online and made available through the VLE, it is clear that the online timetable is notional with regard to the timing of these and many of the other sessions indicated there. We have retained the timetable to help to add structure to your periods of study and they do not define exactly when you will engage with the activities shown. In fact, you will find that some of your face-to-face activities, such as labs and tutorials, may be scheduled against activities shown in the online timetables. You should honour the face-to-face commitments in these situations as you can obviously engage with the lecture recordings at other times.

Further changes or information of note

All our programmes are accredited by the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC). The RSC is aware of the limitations imposed on Chemistry departments by the current pandemic situation. They have recognised that reduced laboratory time is an inevitable response being made across the sector and they are relaxing their criteria to accommodate this. We are also in receipt of their guidance on how to preserve key learning in the area of practical work (and other areas of the subject) through the encouragement to share best practice across the sector.